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BRUSSELS PASS USNMR SHAPE FOR POLAD

ARAB-ISRAEL SITUATION REPORT, 1200, JUNE 8, 1967

1. USS LIBERTY - FOUR US NAVY PERSONNEL WERE KILLED AND MORE THAN 50 WOUNDED IN THE TORPEDO ATTACK ON THE USS LIBERTY, A SIXTH FLEET

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COMMUNICATIONS SHIP, THIS MORNING. IT APPEARS CONFIRMED THE ATTACK WAS ERRONEOUSLY MADE BY THE ISRAELIS, WHO HAVE EXPRESSED DEEP REGRET.

2. MILITARY SITUATION - (A) SINAI FRONT - THE UAR RADO CLAIMS EGYPTIAN FORCES ARE INFLICTING HEAVY LOSSES ON THE ISRAELIS IN COUNTER ACTION IN SINAI. AN ISRAELI ARMY SPOLESMAN HAS TOLD EMBASSY TEL AVIV THAT ENCIRCLED EGYPTIAN FORCES ARE TRYING TO BREAK THROUGH IN RETREAT TOWARD THE SUEZ CANAL ALONG THE SOUTHERN AXIS. THE ISRAELIS SAY THEY HAVE SHOT DOWN THREE UAR MIGS AND THAT 100 EGYPTIAN TANKS WERE DESTROYED IN A BATTLE ON JUNE 7. THE IDF HAS DENIED REPORT ISRAELI FORCES ARE ON THE BANKS OF THE SUEZ CANAL.

(V) SYRIAN FRONT - EARLY THIS MORNING, THE ISRAELIS LAUNCHED AN INTENSIVE AIR AND ARTILLERY BOMBARDMENT OF THE HEIGHTS HELD BY THE SYRIANS IN THE CENTRAL DEMILITARIZED ZONE. AS INSTRUCTED, AMBASSADOR BARBOUR IS EXPRESSING OUR CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE ISRAELI OFFENSIVE ACTION AGAINST SYRIA. HOWEVER, THE AMBASSADOR POINTS OUT, (A) SYRIA HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN CONTINUOUSLY SHELLING ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN THE VALLEY CAUSING ENORMOUS MATERIAL DAMAGE; AND (B) THE SYRIANS HAVE MADE NO REPLY TO THE UN CEASEFIRE APPEAL.

(C) JORDAN FRONT - THE ISRAELIS APPEAR TO BE IN CONTROL OF THE WEST BANK AREA OF JORDAN. THE JORDANIANS CLAIM ISRAELI FORCES HAVE CROSSED THE JORDAN RIVER AND THAT MAFRAQ AIRFORCE BASE HAS BEEN BOMBED AGAIN DESPITE JORDANIAN ACCEPTANCE OF THE CEASEFIRE. THE ISRAELIS DENY THESE CHARGES.

3. UAR PROPOSAL - THE UAR CHIEF OF INTELLIGENCE HAS TOLD EMBASSY CAIRO THAT EGYPT CANNOT ACCEPT A CEASEFIRE IN HER PRESENT POSITION AND WILL THEREFORE CONTINUE TO FIGHT. HE CLAIMED THE UAR MILITARY POSITION IS "NOT TOO BADD... NOT AS BAD AS THE ISRAELIS SAY." THE UAR OFFICIAL SUGGESTED HIS GIVERNMENT MIGHT ACCEPT A PROPOSAL UNDER WHICH: (A) UAR AND ISRAELI FORCES WOULD RETURN TO POSITIONS OCCUPIED BEFORE THE OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES. (B) THE APABA ISSUE WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE ICJ. WHOSE DECISION WOULD BE GOVERNING. AND (C) PENDING AN ICJ DECISION THERE WOULD BE UN SUPERVISION OF THE STRAITS.

4. LEBANON MAINTAINS TIES - PRIME MINISTER KARAME TOLD AMBASSADOR PORTER THIS MORNING THAT LEBANON WILL CONTINUE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE US AT THE CHARGE LEVEL. THE LEBANESE DID NOT WISH TO BREAK AND HOPED BY WITHDRAWING AMBASSADORS TO BE ABLE TO STAND OFF PRESSURE FOR A BREAK.

5. EVACUATIONS - (A) AMMAN - AMBASSADOR BURNS SUGGESTS THAT IF FEASIBLE, OUR PLANES TAKE OUT THE 700 OTHER FOREIGNERS IN AMMAN IN ADDITION TO THE 500 AMERICANS THERE. ALL EVACUEES ARE STANDING FAST IN AMMAN PENDING EVACUATION, WHICH THE EMBASSY REPORTS CANNOT NOW BEGIN UNTIL SATURDAY JUNE 10.

(B) CAIRO - EMBASSY ATHENS IS CHARTERING A GREEK CRUISE SHIP TO PICK UP EVACUEES FROM ALEXANDRIA. THE SIXTH FLEET HAS BEEN ASKED TO MAKE CONTINGENCY PLANS TO PICK UP 800 AMERICANS NEAR ALEXANDRIA IF NECESSARY. EMBASSY CAIRO NO LONGER HAS NORMAL COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES.

(C) SANAA - ALL PERSONNEL ARE EXPECTED OUT OF YEMEN TODAY. WE HAVE ASKED THE ITALIANS FOR CONFIRMATION OF WHEREABOUTS OF FIVE EMBASSY PERSONNEL IN TAIZ.

(D) SAUDI ARABIA - AFTER HAVING RECEIVED KING FAISAL'S ASSURANCES THAT RELATIONS WILL BE MAINTAINED AND AMERICAN CITIZENS AND PROPERTY PROTECTED, AMBASSADOR EILTS HAS DECIDED NOT TO EVACUATE DEPENDENTS FROM THE JIDDA AREA. ARAMCO DEPENDENTS MAY BE AIRLIFTED OUT OF DHAHRAN IF SAUDI SECURITY FORCES APPEAR TO BE LOSING CONTROL OF THE SITUATION THERE.

(E) ALEPPO - CONSULATE GENERAL PERSONNEL ARE SAFE IN TURKEY AFTER A HAZARDOUS ESCAPE BY ROPE FROM THE CONSULATE BUILDING. USG PROPERTY AND THE BELONGINGS OF PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO ALEPPO ARE REPORTED SMASHED OR SET ON FI[illegible] RUSK

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